

The Baptist Record

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Mississippian's snowboards undergird drug rehab ministry

By David Winfrey

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP) — It's not exactly snowboarding for Jesus, but a Southern Baptist home missionary has linked his ministry with winter's hottest sport.

Mississippi native Troy Smith started a snowboard manufacturing company 18 months ago so his drug rehabilitation clients could gain marketable skills before re-entering society.

Since then, he said, TSS Manufacturing has become a popular snowboard subcontractor, making boards for several industry leaders. The demand helped Smith's drug rehabilitation program reach a new level of financial stability.

"Our boards are just really special," he said. "It's a very durable board. It's very alive. It carves well."

The company employs 12 clients of SAFE, an acronym for Setting Addicts Free Eternally. While most enter the program because of a chemical dependency, Smith contends that is only a symptom, not the real problem.

SAFE focuses on factors Smith said lead to drug and alcohol addiction. It also encourages clients to develop a Christian foundation for their lives.

"We work a lot in our program, teaching them relationship skills and problem-solving skills."

The program has been in existence six years, now serving more than 55 clients.

Two years ago, however, SAFE Ministries couldn't afford to buy the building it occupied and had to move from downtown to a suburb of Portland. Smith mortgaged his house to begin TSS, and a group of friends invested in the company.

Originally from Pascagoula, Smith admits he never rode a snowboard before making one. The company, however, is ideally located in Portland. Nearby, Mt. Hood is continental America's only year-round ski area.

"I've always been sort of an inventor.... When I first started looking at snowboards to make them, I saw a design defect in just about every board I picked up," he said. "I didn't tell anybody about it, but when I built our presses I took a totally different route than

most companies."

One difference is Smith presses his boards upside down, which he says keeps the edges from becoming unglued.

"We've never had one of our boards returned because it was broken," he said. "I knew the concept of what I was trying to do. We press the shape into the board that will give, I'm convinced, the very best ride."

In the shop, SAFE clients see the drug rehabilitation lessons at work, Smith said. "We just applied all the principles that we use in the program when we were setting up this business."

Workers research each problem or obstacle, focus on the solution, and implement the best answer.

Smith believes in promoting a positive work environment, with no profanity or negative talk. That and the shop's success go hand in hand, he contends.

"The attitude of your workers has as much to do with whether you get a good board as anything else," he said. "You can put the best materials in, but if you have a bad attitude among your workers, what you get out is a piece of junk."

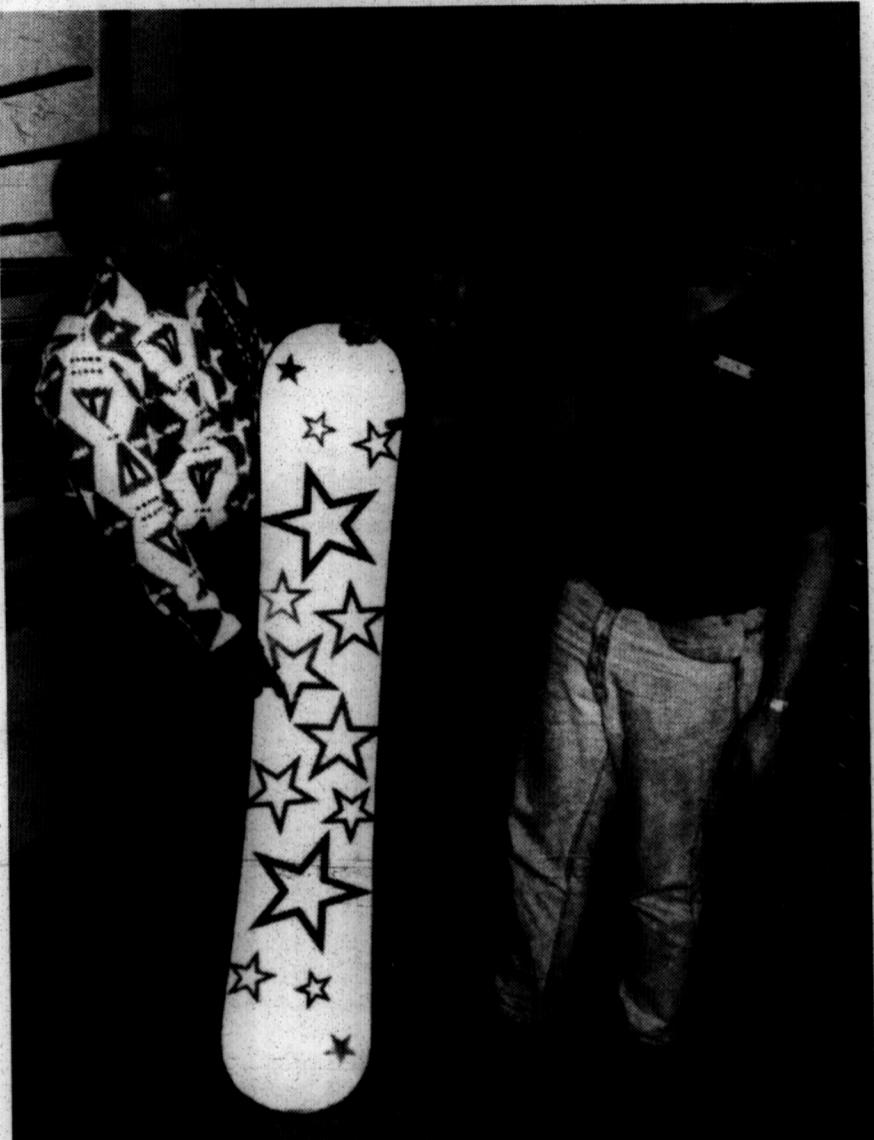
The company is also under contract to a Japanese company to develop "ski-boards" — a shorter version of skis, designed for trick riding and marketed toward in-line skaters.

Financially, TSS Manufacturing supports SAFE ministries and clients' expenses. The company makes about 200 boards a week, trying to keep up with demand from buyers.

"A Japanese buyer has already ordered 2,000 boards. If we had the capacity, he'd buy 10,000," Smith said.

Still, Smith has no plans to expand any larger than the SAFE program needs. "I refuse to grow any faster. I started this snowboard shop to help these guys in the program and I'd rather stay small and be able to control the work environment," he said. "SAFE is my business, and God's really blessing it. I enjoy dabbling with the snowboard stuff, but that's not what I want to give my life to."

Winfrey writes for the Home Mission Board.



Home missionary and Pascagoula native Troy Smith (left) inspects a snowboard made by his company. With him is production supervisor Mike Swanson. Smith's ministry began making boards so clients in his program could gain job skills. TSS Manufacturing has become a popular snowboard subcontractor, making boards for industry leaders. The demand helps his program reach a new level of financial stability. "I believe that it was God's direction that led us into this." (Special photo by Jim Watters)

Effective communication

Pastors of the 21st century must be prepared to harness the power of the exploding communications media, according to Southwestern Seminary President Ken Hemphill. "The ability to use media effectively is a critical and legitimate part of what we must do to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ," he said. That's why Southwestern offers a master of arts in communication degree and encourages all students to get involved, he pointed out. "The effective use of media must be taught to everyone attending the seminary. As ministers, we must expose everyone in the life of the local church to the need for, and effective use of, media in spreading the message of Christ," he said. Hemphill also stressed that quality is important in America's media-savvy culture. "When a media ministry is not effective, it's usually because the pastor or church isn't committed to an imaginative approach, hasn't marketed it properly, or hasn't targeted the right audience. That's why understanding media and how to use it is such an important area of teaching at the seminary," he said.

Christian model

Panicked churchgoers scattered when they heard the angry Nigerian mob outside chanting, "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet!" Fola Lateju, pastor of Oore-ofe Baptist Church in Kaduna, decided to face the marauders alone and told them, "What you are about to do is against the will of God." The mob seized the young pastor, drenched him in gasoline, and put a flaming torch to his clothes. Nothing happened. Dazed, the torchbearer poured gasoline on a nearby patch of grass and touched the torch to it. The grass exploded in flames. Again they poured gasoline on Lateju, and again they could not set him ablaze. After a third try failed, they beat Lateju senseless but left without burning down the church. Lateju firmly believes God intervened to save the church and his life, and he plans to continue modeling his personal walk with Christ for his increasingly militant Muslim brothers. "We emphasize witness through living the Christian faith before our Muslim friends.... Many converts have been won this way," he said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Education Commission votes in favor of asking the state convention to double funding for ministerial education and expand the definition of a ministerial student to include church-related vocations.

20 years ago

Baptists sweep top spots at the Mississippi Junior Miss Pageant: Camille Martin, First Church, Ridgeland, Junior Miss winner; Kim Kennedy, First Church, Meridian, first runner-up; and Rita Wood, Broadmoor Church, Jackson, special achievement award.

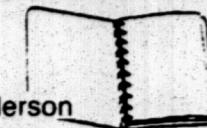
50 years ago

Bob Lutz, 9-year-old member of First Church, Biloxi, wins an all-expense paid trip to summer Royal Ambassador (RA) camp after his entry, "Ambassador Life," wins the contest to name the new Southern Baptist RA magazine.

Thursday, February 29, 1996

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



New Orleans Seminary's new president

Since 1917 the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (called Baptist Bible Institute until 1946) has operated in the Crescent City. **The Baptist Record**, under the leadership of J.B. Gambrell and P.I. Lipsey, had a part in urging the beginning of the school. John Tyler Christian, J.B. Lawrence, and Lipsey were the Mississippians on the original committee.

Trustees have now elected Charles "Chuck" Kelley, 43, as the eighth president of the seminary. Kelley is a native of Texas and is in demand as a conference leader and preacher all over the nation. He has spoken often in the Magnolia State. He was educated at Baylor University and at New

Orleans Seminary. He follows Landrum Leavell as president of NOBTS.

Kelley is a man of integrity and scholarship. He will give wise and constructive leadership to our nearest seminary. The influence of NOBTS will continue to be felt across the state and nation plus through the stream of missionaries around the world. Hopefully the new president will continue to keep the seminary out of any convention politics. Costly firing of professors and dismissal of administrative personnel will sap the energy of any school. Professors of scholarship and conviction will continue to draw students to the school of providence and prayer.

Kelley, the author of several

books and numerous articles, has the support of the faculty and is capable of leading the seminary to new heights. He is the brother of Dorothy Patterson, who is the wife of Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. He is married to Rhonda Harrington, who is the daughter of Bob Harrington, one-time Chaplain of Bourbon Street. She has an earned doctorate in speech pathology from the University of New Orleans. They were married in 1974 and have no children.

Kelley and his wife have been active in SBC life and filled many places of responsibility. Congratulations to the Kelleys! We wish them well in this new and exciting venture.

CLC's Land says policy needs to change on suffering Christians

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. government "has been woefully negligent in dealing with" the global persecution of Christians and should take firm action to remedy this shortcoming, the head of the Southern Baptist Convention's religious liberty agency told a congressional panel.

"This issue has not occupied a significant place in American foreign policy. It has often not even been on the State Department's radar screen, and that must change," Christian Life Commission President Richard Land said Feb. 15.

Land's testimony was part of a hearing on the persecution of Christians before the International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee of the House of Representatives International Relations Committee. It was the subcommittee's first time to hold a hearing specifically on the persecution of Christians, subcommittee chairman Christopher Smith, R.-N.J., said.

Most of the 12 witnesses cited widespread persecution of Christians, especially under communist and Islamic regimes. Some also testified to the U.S. government's failure to assist believers in escaping such suffering.

President Bill Clinton should take the following steps, Land said, to reverse the United States' indifference toward persecution of

Christians around the world:

- Deliver a "hard-hitting, major policy address, making it clear that governments seeking to be on favorable and friendly terms with the United States must not persecute Christian minorities."
- Appoint a special adviser on

"It seems that at least in regard to persecution of Christians, often the State Department has been in the posture of abject surrender to the most repressive of regimes...."

— Richard Land, CLC

religious liberty "who would have broad-based authority" to investigate and monitor accounts of persecution and report them, as well as the response of U.S. government agencies, to the president.

Land also made recommendations to remedy failures by the U.S. State Department:

- Jim Sasser, U.S. ambassador to China, should be recalled and fully briefed on the extent of the persecution of Christians in that country. In January, Sasser said at a meeting of non-governmental organizations he was unaware of the house-church movement in China and of the persecution of its members, Land said. It is reprehensible "that in the many months

of briefings given him by the State Department that they did not brief him on the persecutions of a movement that may number 80 million people in China," Land said.

• An investigation should be initiated as to why the State Department did not make the ending of religious persecution a prerequisite for diplomatic recognition of Vietnam.

• Attorney General Janet Reno should dispatch a bulletin to Immigration and Naturalization Service hearing officers ordering them to process diligently claims of refugees from anti-Christian persecution. There is an "anti-Christian bias in U.S. government circles" which prevents believers from escaping suffering and fleeing to this country, Land said.

• The head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission should speak on persecution of Christians and other religious adherents at the commission's meeting in March.

• An investigation should be launched to determine what State Department official was responsible "for advising participants not to carry Bibles or religious literature with them" to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in September.

• A full investigation and report should be forthcoming into reports

"BOBBY, WHO WAS YOUR BAPTISM COUNSELOR?"



THE FRAGMENTS



The Caribbean touch

Puerto Rico is said to have an "African beat and an American rhythm," yet the Puerto Ricans are Latin Americans. The 3.8 million people speak Spanish and have been American citizens since 1917. They cannot vote in U.S. elections and they are not subject to paying U.S. income tax.

The island, located 1,032 miles from the mainland is 100 miles long, 35 miles wide, with a mountainous center. Most of the people there have a Catholic background,

but there are 70 Baptist churches with over 6,000 members. The work has been under the SBC Home Mission Board, and the growth continues.

I first visited the island in 1984 with an evangelism tour and again last week with the editors of state Baptist papers. The people are friendly, receptive, and we had occasion to thank God for the faithful pastors and missionaries on the beautiful tropical island.

— GH

the U.S. consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, relented to the Saudi government's demands for the cessation of Christian worship by U.S. personnel on consulate grounds.

The United States should take a "hard look" at its policy with regard to Vietnam and China, Land said. Vietnam probably will be considered for Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status this year for the first time, and China's MFN status will be up for renewal in May.

"It seems that at least in regard to persecution of Christians, often

the State Department has been in the posture of abject surrender to the most repressive of regimes which have denied fundamental American values of freedom from religious persecution," Land said.

"A focused campaign against these persecutions supported by a committed domestic constituency, such as sensitized and informed American Christians, can, and we believe will, have tremendous and far-reaching results."

Strode writes for the SBC Christian Life Commission, Washington, D.C.

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Baptist schools beneficiaries of record-setting CP gifts

Mississippi's Baptist-affiliated colleges are sharing in the blessings created by the record-high 1995 Cooperative Program (CP) gifts from the state's churches.

The Mississippi Baptist Education Commission, meeting Jan. 25-26 at Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton, distributed \$304,928.38 to MC, Blue Mountain College (BMC) in Blue Mountain, and William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg.

The funds came from the "challenge" portion of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) 1995 budget. The challenge portion was the amount Mississippi churches gave through CP that exceeded the established budget of \$22,606,579.

Since \$23,216,435.76 was given last year by the state's Baptists, the budget was exceeded by \$609,856.76.

MBCB members, in approving

the 1995 budget, agreed to the following formula for the challenge amount that exceeded the established budget:

- 50% to Christian education in Mississippi (\$304,928.38).
- 25% to the Southern Baptist Convention (\$152,464.19).
- 25% to the Mississippi Baptist Convention (\$152,464.19).

Eddie Kinchen, chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission and partner in a

Jackson insurance firm, said the budget surplus was a "perfect illustration" of how God uses faithful tithees to accomplish his will.

Kinchen pointed out that 21 cents of every CP dollar Mississippi Baptists gave in 1995 went to Christian education in the state, thanks to the established budget and the challenge amount.

"I'm a strong advocate for tithing. These gifts to Christian education are a tithing testimony and a reason for thanksgiving. We could be doing this every year," he said.

Jimmy Porter, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of First Church, McComb, said, "Money is a lifeless thing, but when it is invested in Christian ministry through the Cooperative Program it becomes life-giving. Mississippi Baptists are to be commended for their stewardship faithfulness that has resulted in providing additional life for our educational institutions this year."

Bill Causey, MBCB executive director-treasurer, echoed Porter's comments.

"What a compliment to the faithfulness of those churches and their members who gave their tithes and offerings for the larger cause of Christ and the kingdom of God beyond the local church. This will resolve business matters of long-standing to the satisfaction of those involved in the education process," he said.

"We owe the Education Commission and the three college

presidents a vote of thanks for their good leadership on behalf of the Mississippi Baptist Convention," Causey added.

E. Harold Fisher, BMC president, said, "The funds are particularly significant because they make it possible for us to provide for institutional needs which cannot be paid from the regular college income."

"We are grateful to Mississippi Baptists for their continuing interest in and support of Christian education, which has been expressed in this significant way."

Howell W. Todd, MC president, said, "I am most appreciative of the support of Mississippi Baptists for investing in Christian education through our Baptist institutions. It is so important to our future as Baptists to provide a premier education which is delivered in a spiritual environment but also a place where Baptist history and heritage are taught and instilled in tomorrow's generation of Baptist leaders."

James Edwards, WCC president, expressed gratitude to Mississippi Baptists and pointed out that the sacrificial giving of the state's churches will enable the school to fund scholarships for Mississippi Baptist students, along with church-related vocation students and their dependents.

"This scholarship program has been one of the unique strategies that we have used to carry out our mission as a Mississippi Baptist institution that offers distinctive Christian education."



Jimmy Porter (left), president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of First Church, McComb, joined Bill Causey (second from left), executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in distributing an additional \$304,928.38 in 1995 Cooperative Program funds to Mississippi's three Baptist-affiliated colleges. On hand to accept the gifts were E. Harold Fisher (center), president of Blue Mountain College; Howell W. Todd (second from right), president of Mississippi College; and James Edwards, president of William Carey College. (MC photo by Jesse Worley)

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Lee named Carey president; Edwards becomes chancellor

Rory Lee has been awarded a five-year contract as president and chief operating officer of William Carey College (WCC), according to a Feb. 23 press release from the school. He is expected to begin his duties on June 1.

The action is part of a 10-year plan for "strengthening the top management team of the Mississippi Baptist Institution," approved by the WCC board of trustees, the release said.

The plan was recommended by Jim Edwards, current president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the college. Edwards, 58, president since 1989, has been awarded a seven-year contract as chancellor and CEO.

Lee, 46, will join the WCC staff after a 25-year career at Mississippi College (MC), where he currently is vice president of institutional advancement. He served MC as interim president for a year in 1993-94.

"Rory Lee has a reputation as one of the most gifted administrators in our nation," Edwards said. "As an educator and pastor, he is respected as a person of integrity and vision."

"He and his wife Janet have demonstrated their love for Mississippi Baptists and commitment to Christian education for a



Lee

quarter century. They have contributed significantly to the growth and improvement of their alma mater, Mississippi College.

"We believe their joining the William Carey College family provides our institution with some unique opportunities to continue strengthening our long-range plans to serve all of our Mississippi Baptist constituents and provide educational excellence."

As president and chief operating officer, Lee will be responsible for managing the college's internal operations including academic programs, student development, planning and budgeting, and facility needs at WCC's campuses in Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and New Orleans.

As the new chancellor, Edwards will continue as CEO, including his college-wide responsibilities for executive-level decisions, but he will focus a larger portion of his time on fundraising and external relations.

According to Larry Patterson of Biloxi, trustee board chairman,

the long-range plan for the college's executive leadership has been in the works for nearly two years. Patterson is serving his fourth year as a trustee.

Other current WCC trustees are: Ben Carlisle, Pascagoula; Joe Meadows, Gulfport; Bobby Perry, Gulfport; John Green, Hattiesburg; James Gordon, Hattiesburg; Lewis Griffin, Laurel; Joseph Fail, Bay Springs; Bobby Williamson, Brandon; Polly Love Morris, Clinton; Edwin Pittman, Jackson; Steve Greenhaw, Amory; James Yates, Yazoo City; and Bill Duncan, Starkville.

Lee, who has provided leadership in raising over \$60 million during his career at MC, said Feb. 23 that he is excited about the opportunity to focus his energies on internal needs at WCC.

"I am so very pleased to have this new opportunity for Christian service....," he said. "I am excited because of the care and personal concern for the students that I see being shown by the outstanding faculty and staff at William Carey College. Their mission to help students learn is apparent and it is quite evident that they are achieving that mission."

Kelley unanimously elected to NOBTS

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Charles S. "Chuck" Kelley Jr. was elected unanimously Feb. 23 as the eighth president of New Orleans Seminary.

Kelley, professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary since August 1983, will assume the office of president March 1. He succeeds Landrum P. Leavell II, president from 1975-95. Billy K. Smith, provost and academic dean of the graduate faculty, has been interim president since Dec. 12.

The special committee formed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention to sell the property of Clarke College, a former Baptist-affiliated junior college in Newton, has recommended acceptance of an option for a two-year lease-purchase agreement with Three Springs, Inc. of Alabama, according to businessman Larry Otis of Tupelo, committee chair.

Three Springs plans to operate a school and therapeutic center for youth, said Otis.

The organization will use the campus for residential and out-

patient services to children between the ages of 10 and 18.

Otis said Three Springs will lease-purchase the core campus and the 135 acres north of Highway 80. Not included will be the house and one acre of land set aside by the Mississippi Baptist Convention for Clarke College alumni, and three small parcels of land along Highway 80.

The committee was authorized to sell the property in parcels by the 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention and was proceeding on that approach when

the opportunity to enter this agreement for (sale of) the entire unit at one time became available," Otis reported.

Parcel sales were to have netted approximately \$1,000,000.

"The lease-purchase carries a value consistent with the committee's objectives," Otis pointed out.

The recommendation of the lease-purchase plan will go before the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's executive committee during their March 7 meeting in Jackson.

Clarke committee sets agreement



The Mississippi College (MC) Social Work bachelor's degree program was recently notified that it has received accreditation through the Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting agency for higher education in social work. Celebrating the announcement are (from left) members of the Social Work faculty: Pete Campbell, associate professor; Donoso Escobar, assistant professor; Deborah Holt, assistant professor and director of the social work program; and Glen Eaves, dean of the MC College of Arts and Sciences.

Restructuring steps OK'd by Exec. Comm.

NASHVILLE (BP) — Four initial recommendations for implementing a sweeping restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention were approved Feb. 19 by the SBC Executive Committee.

Among them: the hiring of a management consulting company to assist in creating a new North American Mission Board "at a cost not to exceed \$495,000," according to Executive Committee approval of a recommendation from its 10-member Implementation Task Force (ITF).

The new mission board, which would replace the SBC's current Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio and Television Commission, is a key component of the "Covenant for a New Century" convention restructuring and heightened Great Commission emphasis approved by messengers to the convention's 1995 annual meeting in Atlanta.

The other three ITF recommendations involved a proposed charter for the NAMB and proposed legal documents relating to several SBC agencies slated for dissolution or merger, including the Historical Commission, Education Commission, and Stewardship Commission.

The recommendations will be forwarded to the 1996 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, where a required second vote is slated on an amendment to SBC bylaw 15, which lists the names of SBC entities.

In the case of the Southern Baptist Foundation, to be merged with the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee approved a proposed charter to enable the Foundation's ongoing operation as a separate corporation.

Under the proposal, the Executive Committee would be the Foundation corporation's one "member" and will select the Foundation's trustees.

Explained SBC legal counsel James Guenther of Nashville: "The Tennessee nonprofit corporation act says specifically that a member of a corporation is not liable for the torts and debts of the corporation... and we're satisfied we're not creating any ascending (lawsuit) liability either for the Executive Committee or for the Southern Baptist Convention."

Morris Chapman, Executive Committee president and chief executive officer, also noted the Executive Committee would not be managing donor funds.

"The SBC Foundation, although it is (to be) a subsidiary corporation of the Executive Committee, will nonetheless operate as a corporation," Chapman said. "It will have a board of trustees... (and) a president in place who is equipped, who is professional, and who will continue in the leadership of the management of funds."

The name of the management consulting company to be hired was not disclosed in Executive Committee materials Feb. 19.

Do "what's good" for SBC

NASHVILLE (BP) — Do "what is good" for the Southern Baptist Convention, Jim Henry kindly urged Executive Committee members, SBC agency leaders, state convention leaders, and editors.

Henry, in his second term as SBC president, based his remarks on numerous references to doing good in the New Testament epistle of Titus, during the opening session of the Executive Committee's Feb. 19-21 meeting in Nashville.

Henry focused on doing good in four areas:

- 1) involving more laypeople and pastors in SBC work;
- 2) staying focused on evangelism, missions, and the starting and nurturing of churches;
- 3) undergirding SBC institutions with capable trustees; and
- 4) including more minorities and women on SBC trustee boards.

SBC budget recommendations depending on bylaw 15 outcome

NASHVILLE (BP) — Budget planners for the 1996-97 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) year cannot know for sure if messengers to the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans in June will approve, for a second time, a change to SBC bylaw 15.

Consequently, members of the SBC Executive Committee approved two Cooperative Program allocation budgets for the 1996-97 year — depending on whether bylaw 15 is amended. Both budgets are the same total: \$145,053,499, a 2.42% increase above the current year. SBC agencies had requested \$150,809,379 for 1996-97. Bylaw 15 simply lists the names of SBC entities, several of which are to change under the SBC restructuring.

If bylaw 15 is changed — the last provision needed before SBC officials can move ahead with the restructuring of the denomination — the 1996-97 budget will have two parts: a nine-month provision and then a three-month provision. If bylaw 15 is not approved, the budget would look more like previous SBC budgets.

That would be necessary because, under the restructuring, in the last three months of SBC fiscal year 1996-97 (July, August, and September) there would be only 12 agencies instead of the current 19. The "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring plan reduces the number of agencies in the SBC by eliminating several, merging others and creating a new evangelistic/missions/communications agency called the North American Mission Board.

The Executive Committee also approved four initial recommendations for implementing the sweeping restructuring, approved by messengers to the 1995 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta. The recommendations, presented by the Executive Committee's 10-member Implementation Task Force, include the hiring of a management consulting company to assist in creating the new North American Mission Board "at a cost not to exceed \$495,000."

The other three recommendations involved a proposed charter for the NAMB — created from the merger of the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission — and proposed legal documents relating to seven SBC agencies slated for dissolution or merger.

A considerable portion, \$685,424, of the proposed 1996-97 budget, if bylaw 15 is approved, would go for "Covenant Transition" expenses for the restructuring in a line item identified for the period July 1-Sept. 30, 1997. The "bylaw 15 approved" budget would also hold agencies affected by the restructuring to basically the same budget as the current year has for nine months. The Foreign Mission Board, to be renamed the International Mission Board, would receive 50% of the Cooperative Program in both budgets.

The "bylaw 15 approved" bud-

get also has a note at the bottom: "This budget responds to the unique fiscal situation created by the SBC revision of bylaw 15, June 11, 1996. It is transitional in nature and should not be interpreted as establishing a pattern for CP allocations in future years."

In other action, the Executive

position Jan. 1. Merrell's appointment had been approved by Executive Committee officers Dec. 11.

— approved a request from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to cancel the approval for indebtedness to construct a family life ministry center on its Kansas City, Mo., campus.

— approved Baptist Sunday School Board requests for authorization to publish two new periodicals: a bimonthly, *Minister's Family*, a joint project with Focus on the Family; and a quarterly, *Pursuit*, an evangelistic resource targeting non-Christians in the "boomer," "buster," and "X" generations.

— approved a 2.5% increase in the Executive Committee's staff salary structure, effective Oct. 1.

— approved the SBC audit for the 1994-95 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, 1995. It showed the convention operating reserve fund increased nearly \$49,000 to \$576,970 from the previous year; revenues of \$4,318,442 were \$33,192 short of expenditures of \$4,351,634; and the operating budget fund total, the end of fiscal year 1993-94, of \$627,078 was reduced to \$581,970 at the end of fiscal year 1994-95.

Committee:

— approved a request from the Baptist Sunday School Board for a \$20 million capital fund-raising campaign for Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) conference centers, targeting about 500 selected potential donors, to begin in March and continue through July 1997.

— formally elected A. William "Bill" Merrell as Executive Committee vice president for convention relations, who assumed the

Key Leader Seminar set

for March 16 in Jackson

A Key Leader seminar for church organists and pianists will be held at the Baptist Building in Jackson on March 16.

Registration will open at 9 a.m. The conference, "Better Accompaniment Next Sunday," will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m.

Martha Henderson Kirkland, consultant in keyboard and older children's music for the Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville, will lead the seminar. She is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Kirkland has served the BSSB

since 1982. Prior to that time, she was organist and co-minister of music for Belmont Heights Church in Nashville. She is also the author of several books for church musicians.

Cost for the seminar is \$15 per person, including study book and lunch. To register, send payment along with name, address, and phone number to: Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Registration deadline is March 12.

For more information, contact the Church Music Department at (601) 968-3800, or toll free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.

Injured missionary, son show slight improvement

MEMPHIS (BP) — Foreign Mission Board missionary Wade Watts, who sustained brain injuries in an automobile accident in Peru Feb. 1, is showing some slight improvement at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Central in Memphis.

Watts, who remains in a coma and in critical but stable condition, opened his eyes Feb. 22, said Marvin Fitts of Memphis, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Peru. Physicians said some fluid in Watts' lungs had cleared, and he may be able to breathe without the aid of a respirator in a few days, Fitts said.

Watts' 9-year-old son Marcus, who also sustained brain injuries

in the wreck, remains in a coma at Lebonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis. He also is showing some slight signs of improvement, Fitts said. On Feb. 22 he was able to eat some pudding and indicated he understood what his nurse said to him, Fitts said.

Watts' wife Nancy, 35, and their other son Joshua, 7, are recovering at the Memphis home of her mother. They sustained less serious injuries in the Feb. 1 wreck on a mountain road near Huancayo, Peru. Joshua is expected to begin attending school in Memphis the week of Feb. 26, Fitts said.

Atlanta Promise Keepers rally rebukes racial, religious walls

ATLANTA (BP) — More than 39,000 Christian ministers seeking revival — both personal and spiritual — prayed, praised, wept, and worshiped throughout the first Promise Keepers clergy conference, Feb. 13-15.

Under the theme "Fan into Flame," church and para-church leaders addressed topics of revival and racial and denominational unity.

Speakers urged ministers from every state and a dozen countries to trust God, model reconciliation, and lead their congregations to spiritual revival.

Promise Keepers founder Bill McCartney started the meeting by pleading for an end to racism and denominational strife. "The contention between denominations has gone on long enough," he said

with the enthusiasm of a former college football coach. "If the church ever stood together, almighty God would have his way."

Racial inclusion has been among the organization's specific goals. McCartney has traveled to meet with ethnic pastors in more than 50 inner-city areas, said Steven Chavis, Promise Keepers' national media spokesman. "The message has been received with mixed results because of the pain."

In a scene reminiscent of Southern Baptists' 1995 passage of a resolution on racial reconciliation, representatives of Anglos, African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians prayed for forgiveness for racism, hatred, and unforgiveness.

Anglo pastors gave a long standing ovation, chanting, "We love you" as black pastors walked to the front of the stage for a show of appreciation. Black pastors responded by chanting, "You are forgiven." Yelled McCartney: "We love you. We would die for you guys."

Conference speaker and Southern Baptist Henry Blackaby told Baptist Press the conference is another expression of what he's seen God doing to bring revival to America.

"I've really sensed that there is almost an irresistible movement of God on the hearts of the leadership to move their thinking toward revival," he said.

Blackaby, Home Mission

WMU holds convention at Jackson's Alta Woods

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will hold its 117th convention on March 18-19 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

"It's Worth the Journey" is the theme for the two-day meeting. State WMU president Sandra Nash of Clinton will preside over each of the three sessions.

Program leaders will be Esther Burroughs of the Home Mission Board; Joyce Mitchell of the WMU, SBC; and Randy Sprinkle of the Foreign Mission Board. Each of these guests will speak at each session.

Home and foreign missionaries and denominational leaders will share their work with attendees.

Special recognition will be given

to former members of the state WMU executive board at a 7 a.m. breakfast at the church on March 19.

Former members of the board who have not received invitations should contact Jane Burns, P.O. Box 222, Tupelo, MS 38801, telephone (601) 566-8807; or Rita Land, 421 North Spring St., Louisville, MS 39339, telephone (601) 773-9865.

Child care will be provided at Alta Woods Church for children ages preschool through fourth grade. Pre-registration for child care is necessary.

Contact the WMU office at the Baptist Building, (800) 748-1651, for further information and to make reservations for child care.

LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My daughter's abusive boyfriend has written from prison to ask forgiveness and to propose marriage. I'm aghast that she has accepted. How can I dissuade her?

The issue for you is not so much how to dissuade her as it is how to relate to her. She needs your input, not pressure. She already knows how you feel, but whatever she gets from this man has greater power than your influence as a parent — and that hurts. The abuse may trouble your daughter, but not as much as it troubles you. She would greatly benefit from the counsel of an objective third party (a Christian counselor, for example), in order to gain insight into why she wants to marry an abusive man. Some people are willing to ignore or deny abuse because they feel they are at least being loved by a person who gives them attention, even though that attention at times turns violent. The violence is usually followed by sympathy, regret, and "making up" on the part of the perpetrator, and that can make the victim feel good.

You can help your daughter break this cycle by praying for her and listening as she talks about her hurts and needs.

I have great bitterness toward a fellow church member. How can I get over this and go on with my church work?

You must first uncover what is beneath your bitterness. When have you previously felt this way? What is the exact hurt or frustration? Why do you now feel hurt? There is likely to be unresolved pain in your life — a wound that needs to be cared for and allowed to heal. You can then talk with this person and try to make right the situation. This is important because if this person does not know how you feel, he/she has no way of understanding your bitterness. After resolving the situation with the other person, you can talk with a trusted friend or Christian counselor to address your unmet needs, unhealed wounds, and old hurts. This will help you know how to react when you next feel wronged.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Thursday, February 29, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Kazakh workers visit MC

Two humanitarian aid workers assigned to Kazakhstan in the former Soviet Union recently visited the Mississippi College (MC) Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy, where they talked to students about their work in Kazakhstan. Australia natives Tom Webb (second from right) and his wife Trixie (right), along with American Gordon Roan (left), all work with the Kazakh partnership. Harold Bryson (second from left, in traditional Kazakh costume) is director of MC's Institute for Christian Studies. Also pictured is the Webbs' daughter Genevieve, age 2. (MC photo)

James D. Walker of Saltillo, retired minister, dies at 91

James Delton Walker, 91, of Saltillo, died Dec. 14, 1995, after a long illness. A native of Simpson County, he was a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. In Mississippi he pastored churches in Copiah County, Marion County, Canton, and Calhoun City. He served Walker



as a trustee of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, and on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Etta Lee Gardner Walker.

Survivors include his wife Georgia Franks Walker of Saltillo and her two daughters, Bonnie Ruth Bennett of Baldwyn and Betty Jo Alexander of Fort Payne, Ala.; two brothers Chester Walker of Magee and George Melvin Walker of Starkville.

Ministers' wives network aims to heal hurts and give nurture

ATLANTA (BP) — Often, the neediest people in churches today are the ministers' wives, acknowledged Catherine Hickem, co-director of the newly formed Ministry Wives Network International.

"We want to change that by equipping, educating, encouraging, and empowering them," Hickem said of the support network, which aims to cross all cultural and denominational barriers. Its founding board members include well-known evangelicals Vonette Bright, Kay Arthur, Evelyn Christenson, and Jill Briscoe.

"In many churches there's an either/or situation," said board member Kathryn Grant, a Southern Baptist pastor's wife for 53 years. "Either you have a woman who is very committed, understands her role in the church, and is happy in it, or you have a woman who doesn't understand her role or is very unhappy in the part she has been forced to play."

The position of minister's wife in the Southern Baptist Convention and other denominations brings with it an array of unique challenges, concerns, and opportunities, Hickem said. Many Christians would be surprised to learn of domestic abuse, infidelity,

and pornography in some clergy homes, she said, noting Ministry Wives Network International is dedicated to helping women face and solve such problems as well as realize their full potential as a Christian.

"Because of the nature of their husband's position, problems in the minister's home are often kept a silent secret," Hickem said. "Wives are afraid to share with others because they think their husband will lose his job."

"But we don't want to focus just on the problems," Hickem continued. "We want to help these women discover who they are as children of God and how he has gifted them as an individual. Then they can respond to God's call on their life as a Christian woman and not simply because of who they're married to."

The network began in March 1995 when Lynne Dugan, author of *Heart to Heart with Pastors' Wives*, invited several of her book's contributors and others to Reston, Va., for a three-day brainstorming session on how to minister more directly to ministers' wives.

"The heart of what we're doing," Hickem said, "is helping women really understand their

spiritual gifts and their value in the eyes of God for who they are called to be, not who they're expected to be. When they are at peace with themselves and strong in their relationship with Christ, typically other things will fall into place."

Hickem, Jane Berry, who also serves as the group's co-director, and other board members know the effect of their ministry could change the way the church serves the nation and the world.

"The ultimate impact we hope to make is to have women who are serving beside their husbands totally peaceful in their relationship with Jesus Christ and leading empowered lives for his kingdom," Hickem said.

"When that's done on a broad level, it's going to change the body of Christ as a whole. It's a ripple effect that starts at the top. The healthier the clergy marriage, the healthier the clergy family, the healthier the church, the healthier the body. That will allow Christ to use us all in a much more powerful way," Hickem said.

Additional information about Ministry Wives Network International may be obtained by phoning (800) 733-4712.

One-on-one...

Venezuelan editor looks forward to partnership; expresses dream of united American Christians

By James R. Walker

Luis Magin Alvarez is editor of **Luminar Bautista**, the official newspaper of the Venezuela Baptist Convention.

He was a member of the delegation that traveled to Mississippi in Nov. 1995 to attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention and sign the three-year partnership agreement between Venezuelan Baptists and Mississippi Baptists.

A geographer by training, Alvarez is only the second editor of **Luminar Bautista**, having served in that capacity for the past 20 years.

He also preached five times each week for 24 years over the powerful Trans World radio system, which reaches much of Central and South America.

BR: Tell us about Venezuela.

Alvarez: We are a Latin American country. We have a population of 32 million people at this time.

We are an oil-producing country. We are the largest supplier of oil to the U.S.

We have a democratic government established in 1958, but we are having a bad time at the moment because of the devaluation of the currency.

The economic situation in the country is bad. In fact, just before we left the country (in November 1995) there was a devaluation of the currency of almost 80%.

BR: Is that because of inflation?

Alvarez: Yes, inflation. We have a huge national debt and this is really hitting the country because of the interest the government has to pay to foreign banks.

BR: Tell us about Baptist work

Alvarez: Our convention was established in 1951. We started with six churches, no more than 200 people in all churches combined.

Baptist work was initiated before we had a Baptist missionary in the whole country, because the churches came as a result of reading the Bible and reading Baptist books which taught about Baptist beliefs and principles of the Baptist faith.

The first church was founded in 1945, then our convention in 1951. We had one or two (missionary) couples at the time.

At this time, we have about 245 churches

plus, I would say, about 45 church-type missions. We have an increase of about 8-10% every year in churches.

BR: Most of the increase are young people?

Alvarez: Young people, yes. I would say six or seven out of ten who go to church are young people under the age of 20.

BR: What can the Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership do to help your work?

Alvarez: Evangelism, leadership training of nationals, church building projects, dental projects, and medical projects. I would say training young people in many areas. There are many things we can learn from you.

BR: Is there one particular thing that you can say you want to see happen in this partnership?

Alvarez: Evangelism. Witnessing is very important.

BR: What were your impressions of the November 1995 meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention that you attended?

Alvarez: I am really amazed at the level of competency in how you do things. You need only two or three days to have all matters settled.

BR: Do you have negative impressions of the United States since you've been here?

Alvarez: Let me tell you, this is very personal. I am very fond of this culture. I think America has the potential for the very best or the worst; it depends on what you do with your time, your resources, (and) your vision. Maybe Americans are unaware of what they have... they have so much.

If the Christian people here really unite and were willing to be used by the Lord, they could be a blessing to the rest of the world.

I was converted through a witness by a missionary. Another (missionary) baptized me; another was my pastor. When I got married, of the pastors at my wedding, three were missionaries. I am sure when I die a missionary will say "Amen."

Walker is pastor of Pheba Church, Pheba.



Partnership needs

Mississippi/Venezuela

Vacation Bible School workers for meeting of Venezuelan Baptist Mission on June 15-28, 1996. Six to eight workers are needed.

Dentists for Medical/Dental project on April 19-29.

Church building project July 5-15 in Tina Quillo. Four teams are needed, with some funds. Dates are flexible.

Mississippi/Colorado

First Church of Highlands Ranch (near Denver) is planning a 12,000-square-foot building. Funding has been raised; 100 or more people on various teams are needed to erect and enclose the building before the end of this year.

Estes Park Church in Estes Park is seeking a music, education, and youth director for a minimum of two years. This person will also direct the church's resort ministry emphasis.

Emmanuel Church in Grand Junction is seeking a mission pastor to conduct Bible study with the goal of starting a mission church. Time duration would be one to two years.

The church is also requesting a couple to conduct Bible study at camps around the Powderhorn ski area. The church would like this assignment to be long-term, but length of service is negotiable.

Honduras

Wanted — churches or associations to partner with designated locations in Honduras to establish and develop churches. Will require up to two years.

For more information on these and other partnership needs, contact Bill Hardy, Partnership Coordinator, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

CBF may not last, Fla. group told

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — The greatest threat facing the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) is it will become a one-generation movement, Georgia pastor Bill Self told a Feb. meeting of the Florida Fellowship.

Speaking at an evangelism conference held prior to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida's annual winter meeting, Self warned moderate Baptists to get over losing control of the Southern Baptist Convention to conservatives and to focus instead on strengthening churches.

"The war is over," said Self, pastor of John's Creek Church in Alpharetta, Ga., referring to the decade-long struggle between moderates and conservatives for control of the 15 million-member SBC.

Self charged the Fellowship, a five-year-old coalition, is more intent on building a denominational structure reminiscent of the SBC than resourcing churches.

"Why do we look like a dead institution?" he asked. "I think we think it's coming back. If you listen closely... down underneath is a desire for it to come back like it used to be."

Self, pastor of a rapidly growing congregation in an affluent Atlanta suburb, also issued a sharp critique of fellow moderates for what he called a subtle anti-church-growth mentality.

"I think down inside of us is a death wish for the church," Self said. "I'm sorry, but I've been to my last ensmalment campaign for a church. I think we're afraid to let God loose and do something in the

church. All of our work must have integrity. Isn't that why we are in CBF?" Self said.

"If I have any criticism it's a loving criticism," Self said. "I don't know if you have a church that's more committed to CBF than I have," he told about 250 people

Commissioners affirm Fla. editor; question ad

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Fla. (ABP) — Commissioners of the **Florida Baptist Witness** affirmed the leadership of new editor Michael Chute but later questioned his decision to accept an advertisement for a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting.

Meeting Feb. 2 in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., the governing board of the Florida Convention newspaper also elected Keith Hinson of Montevallo, Ala., as the paper's associate editor. He will succeed assistant editor Lindsay Bergstrom, who resigns March 1 after nearly 11 years on the paper's staff.

Chute, a former missionary, was elected editor last March with a promise to "move beyond" the controversy that divided the newspaper's governing board and prompted the resignation of the last editor.

As the commissioners neared the end of their Feb. 2 meeting, however, Steve Henderson of Lakeland questioned the acceptance of an advertisement in the

Jan. 25 issue that promoted the winter meeting of the Florida Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

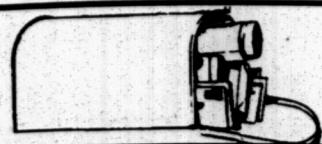
The Florida Fellowship is a state affiliate of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a moderate organization that many conservatives view as undermining or competing with missions efforts of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Chute replied that the ad had been purchased by a Florida Baptist church. "It puts me in a difficult situation to tell a Florida Baptist church they cannot place an ad. I'm an editor, not a censor," he said.

Waylon Moore of Tampa replied that there was "nothing immoral, nothing compromising" about the ad.

"We're just taking a step backward in the progress we're making," said Joe Boatwright of Winter Park, calling the ad "volatile, very controversial."

Michael Mott of St. Augustine replied that one reason the ad was accepted was that it provided \$1,250 in revenue.



Letters to the editor



Change the name?

Editor:

It has occurred to me that it might be a good idea for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to change its name. I take issue with the first word because it refers to a part of America that has been vilified and scorned and ridiculed through the years. The media has always pictured the South (and Southerners) as backward and ignorant. Of course, we know better, but what has the average person in New York, Illinois, or California been led to believe?

I don't have to name the television productions whose basis was the Southern way of life, real or imagined. You might say to me "You're not much of a Southerner." My American ancestor John died in South Carolina in 1695. I don't think the Lord was pleased with what took place in 1854, do you? I cannot believe that our mission efforts in the rest of the nation have been blessed by our being "Southern." I'm sure there are dozens of names to which we could change that would make us more effective as a national Baptist organization.

When, as a ten-year old boy, I started attending a Southern Baptist church in Tuscaloosa, Ala., I questioned the use of the word "Convention" in the name of the SBC. I have never found in any dictionary where the word means anything other than a meeting or an assembly or the body of persons attending. We are using the word incorrectly and giving the impression that we are semi-literate.

Shouldn't we as Southern Baptists enter the next millennium with an absence of the pride evinced in Luke 18:11 and far less of the provincial pride of the last century and a half?

J.B. Morgan
Long Beach

Editor's Note: The motion to

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change the name of the SBC has arisen several times in the last few decades. Most people are just not willing to make the change. "Southern" has come to denote a doctrinal position rather than an geographical position.

Seeks a shepherd

Editor:

The International Baptist Church of San Jose, Costa Rica, is looking for a pastor to begin in June, 1996, or shortly thereafter. People from many different nations and backgrounds attend the church so a pastor would need to be able to adapt to other cultures and denominational backgrounds. The church has maintained a close relationship with the Costa Rica Baptist Mission since being founded by SBC missionaries in 1968.

Send inquiries to: Pastor Search Committee, International Baptist Church, Apdo. 4035-1000, San Jose, Costa Rica.

For more information write, call, or fax the church at 011-506-234-2943 (phone) or 011-506-283-0950 (fax).

International Baptist Church will provide housing, transportation, and a partial salary for the pastor. Teaching opportunities are available in several English speaking schools for the pastor's wife.

We ask all of you to pray for us as we seek God's man to serve as our pastor.

Bill Quick, chairman
Pastor Search Committee

Lack of courtesy

Editor:

The Evangelism Conference of '96 at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, was one of the finest. J. Garland McKee and his staff are to be commended.

Our host church was gracious and their choir was great. The preacher and the messages, most meaningful.

But where did we preachers learn our courtesy? I observed a continual problem in the seating as pews designed to hold 20 or more were occupied by four or less, everyone sitting at the ends.

Why do we not have enough thought about us to move to the

center of a seating arrangement so that those coming in after us do not have to step or crawl over our relaxed bodies?

This distracting habit needs to be corrected. I prefer to remain anonymous to avoid the reactions of my brethren.

Name withheld by editor

Noted the difference

Editor:

I would like to draw attention to the wide contrast in the applied ethics of two theological groups on whom you reported and quoted in the "Editor's Notebook" (**Baptist Record**, Feb. 1, 1996), entitled "Calvinism and Southern Baptists."

First, let's notice the ethics of speech displayed by Timothy George, who was quoted as an advocate of the so-called "Doctrines of Grace." George said, "Let us not... become bitter against those who view this matter in a different light, nor treat them in a supercilious manner; rather let us be gentle toward all men." Amen, Timothy George! Notice that his statement, like his theology, is seasoned with grace.

Now compare the statement of Jerry Vines, who speaking undoubtedly about R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, and Timothy George, who holds a Harvard Ph.D., said, "It is possible to be educated beyond one's own intelligence." What an *ad hominem* attack!

This form of argument would have no credibility even in a human court, let alone before the bar of God. Molly Marshall, as well as several other opponents of Calvinism who were quoted in the article, committed the same fallacy. Where is the grace and edification in such statements? But what is more fearful to ponder is the type of theology from which such graceless ethics could spring.

In closing, James Leo Garrett was quoted from his spring 1995 chapel address at Southwestern Seminary entitled, "Ought We Adopt the Synod of Dort." Garrett closed his message with the admonition to leave the eternal and sovereign decrees of God in eternity and let's get busy proclaiming the gospel in time, where we live. May we heed the wisdom of J.L. Garrett.

Richie Allen
Gulfport

Praise for VISION

Editor:

Throughout each year, as a pastor there are many meetings that I am called upon to attend. These must be considered carefully if I

am to maintain responsible leadership in my church and home.

The VISION Workshop sponsored by the [Mississippi Baptist] Convention Board did not rank high on my list for attending but I did attend. I was thrilled at the results. I came away with a new vision for myself, my Sunday School class, and my church. Plans are now underway to bring this new vision through our staff to church leaders and members.

The VISION Workshop leaders were prepared and pleasant. The material was fresh and presented in a bright and brief manner. This conference was conducted by Matt Buckles of the Convention Board and Doug Broome, pastor of Calvary Church in Waynesboro.

The purpose of this letter is to encourage pastors to give priority to attending one of the 25 or more remaining conferences. I can see now the conference I attended, in George Association, was worth my time... now that my vision is better.

Jerry W. Mixon, pastor
Rocky Creek Church
Lucedale

Commended for aid

Editor:

I am writing to commend the actions of Philip Butler, minister of music and youth at First Church, Sumrall. On Dec. 28, Philip stopped to give aid when our church van broke down on Interstate 20 as we returned to our hotel following the Youth Evangelism Conference in Clinton.

Despite the late hour, cold weather, and the fact that ahead of him was a two-hour drive back to Sumrall, Philip and the kind people from Sumrall were willing to render assistance.

No doubt First Church, Sumrall, is blessed to have people who are sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and willing to be servants. I am reminded of the words of the Lord Jesus, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

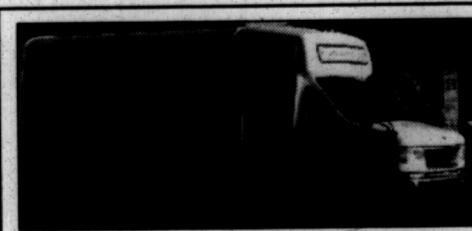
Thanks again to Philip, and to the accompanying adults and youth from Sumrall.

Philip D. Cooper, pastor
Pine Grove Church
Dumas

Burn the note? Never

Editor:

I get amused looking at pictures of polite groups of men, well-dressed, grinning at one another, one of which invariably holds on to a little piece of paper with a flame or two licking off the end of it, and with the caption:



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"We burned our note!" or some such. Strange fire.

Listen: If we should ever have such a note, and it was paid off, I personally would mount that thing in a steel frame, cover it with bullet-proof glass, mount it with one-half inch bolts in the foyer, and stencil beneath it in red paint three-inch-high block letters the following:

"Look! For years and years this thing has dealt this church untold misery! And now, the Lord has given us victory over it!"

And it would stay there until the church was torn down. But burn it? Never.

John T. Flippin, pastor
New Prospect Church
Houlka

Segregation of classes

Editor:

You are right on target with "The power of the powerless," (**The Baptist Record**, p. 2, Feb. 8). Four years as a bivocational pastor have verified what I saw as a full-time pastor: segregation of the classes. Fifty years ago, Southern Baptists were reaching the folks at the bottom of the ladder. From what I see, today we are not. To make it worse, no one else seems to be [either] — unless it is the cults. There are exceptions.

Many of our smaller churches have risen in affluence and are carbon copies of "First" churches. The young pastor of a mission of a First Church in Louisiana where I served verified this last week.

"First Church started us to reach an unreached segment. We have become a 'First Church.'"

A rural Mississippi Baptist pastor shared with me that his church was reaching some at the bottom of the rung. Some longtime members told the pastor: "This has got to stop. We are tired of snotty-noses, smelly bodies, and sleazy language and morals."

A Third World country right here under our noses! Low income certainly does not have to mean low self-esteem and low morals. However, the three may now be running together in great numbers. This week an 80-year-old couple living together said, "If we get married, one of us will lose Medicaid and get a reduced check."

Situation ethics has become the rule for many. All barriers are being crossed. The crossing may be bringing together the powerless for better or for worse — it looks like for the worst.

From the Baptist viewpoint, satellite ministries with long-term commitment in terms of staff and finance may be the answer. Close supervision would be a necessity. Risk would have to be a factor. After all, "nothing is free." The idea of a welfare ministry at the expense of the sponsoring church would have to be exchanged for a heavenly dividend. On second thought, some of the dividends might prove a blessing to our grandchildren and theirs.

George E. Meadows
Mt. Olive

Names in the News

Stephen Hogan has been named to the position of associate in the Bible Teaching-Reaching Department of the Florida Baptist Convention. A graduate of William Carey College in Hattiesburg and Southwestern Seminary, he is the son of Leland M. Hogan, pastor of Carterville Church, Petal.



The works of five students at William Carey College on the Coast have been chosen to compete in the Southern Literary Festival to be held in April in Natchez. They are: **Ashley Cronenberg**, freshman from Mobile, Ala., informal essay category; **Miranda Richards**, freshman from Charleston, S.C., formal essay division; **Paula Smith**, senior from Biloxi, poetry category; **Charles McCann**, senior, and **Donald Graves**, sophomore, both from Gulfport, in the short story division.

James D. Everett has joined the Mississippi College (MC) English Department as an assistant professor. He is a native of Valparaiso, Fla., and goes to MC from the University of Washington. He is a graduate of Auburn University and the University of Washington.



Jennifer Greenhaw of Amory will perform vocal works in her senior recital on March 6 at 3 p.m. in the Aven Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus. She is the daughter of Steve and Cynthia Greenhaw, and a member of First Church, Amory.

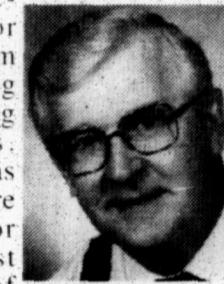
A.C. Gore, pastor of Schooner Valley Church in Chickasaw Association for the past 24 years, died Feb. 8. He was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by his son, a daughter, and several grandchildren.

W.O. Pippen, retired pastor, is now a patient in the Covington

County Hospital in Collins. He pastored in north and central Mississippi prior to retiring due to ill health. Mr. and Mrs. Pippen may be contacted at (601) 765-6711.

New Providence Church, Hazlehurst, recently observed layman's day. **Jacob Twiner, Rubin Bland**, and **Johnny Green**, members of the church, were guest speakers for the day's worship services. James Whittington is pastor.

Arlis Nichols, pastor of Harperville Church, Forest, has recently recorded "Live from Laurel," a collection of humor gleaned from his pastoring and teaching experiences. The album was recorded before 500 senior adults at First Church of Sharon in Laurel. His brand of comedy "is an attempt to be an entertainment alternative to today's comedy filth.... I just feel there is a great need for G-rated humor...." he said. Nichols may be contacted at P.O. Box 35, Harperville, MS 39080.



Curtis Miller, 74, pastor of East Howard Church, Biloxi, died Feb. 4, following a stroke. Funeral services were held Feb. 7, with internment in the Crestlawn Memorial Cemetery in Ocean Springs. Born in Gainesville, he was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He had been a pastor for more than 50 years, serving churches in Louisiana and Alabama, in addition to four churches in the Mississippi Gulf Coast area. Survivors include his wife Anna; son David of Biloxi; daughters Ann Brown, Van Cleave, and Carolyn Vice of Birmingham.

Edward C. Farr, 92, of Memphis, died recently of heart disease. The Meridian native was a retired Baptist pastor. He served 21 churches and helped organize 12 churches during his ministry. He was also a teacher for Kemper and Lauderdale County schools, an associational missionary, and a retired circuit court judge. At age 77, he became a volunteer with the Mission Service Corps. He

Mississippi native now pastors tiny 15-member Minn. church

From Mississippi to Minnesota, Hugh Robinson has answered a call to missions. He was ordained by Temple Church, Hattiesburg, and is now pastor of the 15 member Owatonna Church in Faribault, Minn.

Robinson is a bivocational missionary and is employed in Faribault. His wife Rochelle also works outside the home.

"The Lord led me up here," Robinson said, "And my goal is to let the Lord work through me to grow this church into a lighthouse for this community."

There is a vast difference in pastoring a church in Mississippi and a church in Minnesota but Robinson's desire is to "reach the lost" in that area. The Owatonna Church was without a pastor for two years prior to Robinson going there.

and his wife Mary served in Hawaii for 14 months, and Nevada for three years. Farr is survived by his wife, the former Mary Huskey.

Revival Results

Calvary, Columbia (Marion): Jan. 28-Feb. 14; "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames" drama; 1,216 professions of faith; David White, pastor.

Enon, Grenada: March 17-20; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Perry Neal, Montgomery, Ala., evangelist; Danny White, West Point, music; Al Finch, pastor.

First, Lake: March 1-3; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Barry Corbett, Kosciusko, evangelist; Randy Cuchens, Newton, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

First, Picayune: March 10-13; Sunday: high attendance day, 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. worship, 6 p.m.

youth rally; Mon. and Tues., 6 p.m. pot luck supper, 6:30 services; Wed., 5 p.m. supper, 6:30 services; Jimmy Albritton, interim pastor; speaker; Graham Smith, MBCB Music Department director, music.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: March 3-6; 7 p.m. nightly; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist.

Cedar Grove, Columbia: Marvelous Mondays in March, 7 p.m. each Monday; guests: Harold Bryson, March 4; Dean Register, March 11; Russell Bush, March 18; Wayne VanHorn, March 25.

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patients who had undergone a Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) participated in cardiac rehabilitation. As he increased his exercise capacity, he began participating in competitive race walking for fun. Now, not only has he improved his cardiac health, but he's also acquired a mantel full of medals and trophies to show for his determination. He's the kind of person who'd never be content just sitting around. He wanted to get out there and enjoy life, so he did - crediting his active participation in physical exercise with making life worth living again.

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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

Staff Changes

First Church, Brandon, has called two new music ministry staff members. **J.M. Wood** has accepted the position of music minister. He recently retired as minister of music at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and has served as interim music minister for First, Brandon. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and **Wood**

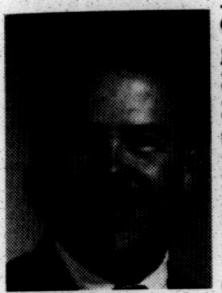
North Texas State University. **Jamie Shannon** will serve as bi-vocational music assistant, working with the youth choir and orchestra. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and the University of Mississippi. Prior to going to First, Brandon, he served Hillcrest Church in Jackson.

First Church, Clinton, has called **Brent and Darlene Jezek** to serve as coordinators for its ministry to the deaf. The couple previously served First Church, Gulfport, in a similar capacity. Brent is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary; Darlene is a graduate of Mississippi College and attended Southwestern Seminary. For more information, call the church at (601) 924-6705.

Antioch Church, Union, has called two new staff members: **Wayne Bishop** will serve as minister of music; **Steve Moore** will be associate pastor. Bishop, a Union native, previously served Rose Hill Church. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University. Moore, a Pascagoula native, formerly served as pastor of White Oak Church, Neshoba County. He is a Clarke College graduate. James Young is pastor.

Old Union Church, Shannon, has called **Kenneth Kelly** as pastor, effective Jan. 7.

Wayne Jackson and **Joey Shorter** have resigned their positions as minister of music and minister of education, respectively, of **First Church, Columbus**. Jackson will go to Calvary Church in Lexington, Ky. Shorter will join the staff of First Church, Memphis.



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Thursday, February 29, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Just for the Record

Antioch Church, Bay Springs, will host an area-wide evangelism conference March 1-2, sponsored by Jasper Association. Schedule for the sessions is: March 1, 5-9 p.m.; March 2, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-5 p.m., 6-9 p.m. Meals will be served at the church Friday at 5 p.m., Saturday noon, and 5 p.m. For additional information, call Jasper Association at (601) 764-3910.

Southside Church, Meridian, will host "The Big Picture" youth rally on March 16, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The rally will feature the band Drive. Admission is \$1. For more information, call the church at (601) 693-4288.

First Church, Pontotoc, continues its six-month sesquicentennial celebration in March. On the 10th, Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, will be the featured speaker for the 10:40 a.m. service. Mark Blankenship, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Music Ministry Department, will lead music for that service. On March 24, Tom Douglas, former pastor, will be guest speaker for the 10:40 a.m. service. His son Dennis will be guest soloist. James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, will speak in the 7 p.m. service. W.H. Sims III is pastor.

The Coca-Cola Company is sponsoring the "Who Would You Choose?" program to nominate torchbearers to help carry the Olympic flame across the country. The program provides a way for everyday heroes to participate in the Olympic Torch Relay from Los Angeles — through central Mississippi — to Atlanta, in conjunction with the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. Each torchbearer must be at least 12 years old, and will carry the flame one kilometer (0.6 mi.) on a date and location to be determined by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. To nominate a torchbearer, pick up and fill out a "Who Would You Choose?" form at a participating local retailer. Call Laura J. Mulry at (214) 902-2753 for more information.

The Mississippi College (MC) Band will present its annual winter concert on March 4 at 8:15 p.m. in Swor Auditorium on campus.



Emmanuel Church, Ocean Springs, erected a 7-by-9 feet white wooden cross on the front of its sanctuary building recently. The original cross and steeple were destroyed during a hurricane several years ago. A dedication ceremony was held after the Sunday morning worship service by pastor Sanford Sherman (center), Skip Pendas (left), and Roy Lang, minister of music.

The concert is free. For more information, call (601) 925-3440.

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, will host New-song in concert on March 14 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each, available at local bookstores and at the church. For more information, call the church at (601) 947-4875.

Antioch Church, Union, will host Michael Combs of Jacksonville, Fla., in concert on March 3 at 10:50 a.m. For more information, call (601) 986-8771. James Young is pastor.

First Church, Vicksburg, will host the Belmont University Chorale of Nashville in a concert of sacred music on March 3 at 6 p.m. The chorale is under the direction of Sherry Hill Kelly.

William Carey College will offer "Learning Disabled," the second in a series of five graduate courses on special education, in the spring trimester on the Hattiesburg campus. For more information, contact the School of Education at (601) 582-6139.

Mission Offerings

Homecomings

First Church, Vancleave, exceeded its Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$10,000 by collecting \$12,253. This is the largest amount ever collected in the church's history. Delores Cook is WMU director; Greg Potts is pastor.

Holly Springs (Lincoln): March 17; Harold McClelland, speaker; Billy Smith, music; covered dish luncheon, noon; special music, 1 p.m. featuring One Accord and Obadiah singing groups; proceeds go to cemetery fund.

Help! Do you have a new address?

The Baptist Record needs your help if you have a new "911" (Rural Route Conversion) address. As soon as your local Post Office has given official notification for you to use your new address, please send it immediately to your church secretary or directly to our office: The Baptist Record, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



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Red towels, school spirit

Jim Edwards (top, right) president of William Carey College (WCC), watches as Crusader basketball player Shawn Glass autographs red towels for Acteens and GAs who recently visited the WCC campus. The red towels have been made popular by Edwards as a sign of school pride. (WCC photo)

SBCNet user number climbs to 7,500 — up 50% since June 1995

NASHVILLE (BP) — The number of people participating in SBCNet, the Southern Baptist data communications network, climbed to 7,500 users on Feb. 12, a 50% increase since June 1995 when the 5,000th subscriber went on line.

The number of on-line hours per week within SBCNet has increased to 2,440 since its beginning in April 1991.

SBCNet, which is coordinated by the Baptist Sunday School Board, provides services including supplemental teaching helps for adult and youth Sunday School lessons in three curriculum series; Baptist Press; CompassionNet, the Foreign Mission Board's worldwide electronic prayer network; Home Mission Board Library; bulletin boards for selected seminars and state Baptist conventions and a variety of other services aimed at specific interests of church staff people and church members.

In 1995 the network expanded to three forums, adding more message and library areas and providing for expansion as new services

come on line.

SBCNet may be accessed by using a computer, modem, and a membership kit distributed free by the Sunday School Board. Kits, which provide access to services of CompuServe and SBCNet, contain software and account information. New members receive 10 free hours of CompuServe and one free month of SBCNet. The kits are available in DOS, Macintosh, and Windows versions. The flat-rate cost of SBCNet, \$7.95 monthly, and CompuServe, \$9.95 monthly, provides users the ability to read and download files and participate in on-line conferences without per-minute charges within SBCNet.

The CompuServe charge provides five hours of access each month to more than 3,000 services, including The Internet.

To order an SBCNet kit or to obtain additional information, call 1-800-325-7749. People who are already members of CompuServe may join SBCNet by simply typing "GO SBCNet" at any CompuServe prompt.

The Ministry of the Baptist Convention Department is accepting nominations of young people to serve as Challengers to be held in June in New Orleans.

Fifteen Challengers will be chosen from among those whose churches feel they meet the following criteria: active in the Challengers program; in grades 10-12 in the year they are nominated; have completed at least two years participation in Challengers First and Second Mile activities (96 total activities) or the Base Unit and one additional unit from Mission Challenge (300 total service hours); have not previously served as page.

Pages will be responsible for their travel to and from the Southern Baptist Convention. Their expenses at the convention will be paid by the MBCB Brotherhood Department.

Deadline for nominations is March 25. Nominations should be sent to: Brotherhood Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Got a name? You're a prospect!

By Cynthia Wright

MODESTO, Calif. (BP) — What's in a name? A prospect and a soul, according to the San Diego Association.

The association gathered the names of more than 3,500 prospects during the San Diego-area Del Mar Fair this past July by offering free-name certificates.

The computer-generated certificates, suitable for framing, are imprinted with an individual's name, the literal meaning of the name, and a biblical character quality associated with that meaning.

The evangelism tool was among the exhibits featured during the 1995 California Southern Baptist Convention (CSBC) annual meeting last November in Modesto.

And now, the "What's in Your Name?" computer program is available in a Word for Windows® format in the California library of the SBCNet state convention forum. Tim Gentry, associate director of the

CSBC office of evangelism, said there is no charge for the program. Churches without access to SBCNet can download the program at their association offices, he added.

"It's a great witnessing tool because of the follow-up by local churches," said James Scott, San Diego Association's director of evangelism.

Addresses for each person who receives a name certificate are put into a database, which is sorted by zip code. The names and addresses are then distributed to pastors in corresponding zip codes.

In the San Diego association, churches followed up by delivering free Bibles to those who expressed interest at the fair, and several pastors have reported their church members are energized by this creative method of evangelism.

"Church members are eager to visit these prospects, because they don't have to do it 'cold,'" Scott

said. "The prospects are already expecting a call from the church."

The program began in 1993 when a group of individuals from the association set up shop at the fair's community relations booth for a trial run.

The following year, the group ran the booth for 10 days, resulting in 12 professions of faith. This year's 21-day run resulted in eight such decisions. Fair officials applauded the effort, bestowing the "Best Community Service Booth" award on the association.

Scott added the association has created a Bible study especially for those who made professions of faith this year, "and we have yet to see the final outcome."

He said the program also can be used at block parties or any other such community event.

Wright is director of donor relations at California Baptist College.

Brotherhood's Pure Water campaign continues

Baptist Men's Day 1995 launched the Pure Water-

as they return to the United States for furlough, or as new missionaries leave for the field.

Pure Water-Pure Love will continue to raise the funds until all the necessary units have been placed.

Since the inception of the campaign, the Brotherhood Commission has been able to secure a better price for the filter units: \$175. For more information, contact the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, (901) 272-2461.

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Uniform Hearing the Word



By David Mitchell
Matthew 13

The story told by Jesus in Matthew 13 is one of many stories he told that have been categorized as a parable. Parables have easily been defined as "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." Jesus did not invent parables but perfected their use to convey the meaning of the kingdom message. In this parable Jesus helped those who were listening to understand the response to the sowing of the gospel seed.

The gathered crowd (vv. 1-2). Often we miss opportunities to notice the humanity of Christ. What could be more natural than to awaken early in the morning, walk out to the sea, and have a quiet time with God? It is there we find Jesus. As he watched the billows break on the shore, a crowd began to gather. Jesus sat down on the seashore and began to teach the gathering crowd. After the crowd grew so large that it was difficult for him to communicate from the seashore, he climbed into a boat, floated a few feet out into the water, faced the crowd, and told the story of the sower or soils.

The story (vv. 3-9). The activity in the story of the soil and the sower was not uncommon to those who heard Jesus' message. Farmers often scattered the seed by hand as they walked over a field broadcasting the seed, much like we would broadcast fertilizer. In the parable Jesus said the sower's seed fell on four different kinds of soil. Verse 4 indicates that some of the seed fell on the hard surface beside the road. The seeds were unable to find root in the hard ground, and birds ate them. Verses 5 and 6 tell us that other seed fell on a thin layer of soil that covered a layer of rock. The seeds quickly germinated, but because their roots could not find deeper soil, these plants quickly died. The third seed fell into deeper soil which contained thorns. These seeds were able to grow for a while, but very soon they were choked out by the stronger thorns.

The fourth seed fell on good soil. These seeds fell into fertile soil and brought an abundant harvest of grain. But even in the good soil, there was a variance in the harvest. However, all the good soil did bring forth a harvest.

The story of the sower and the soils explained (vv. 18-23). In this section of Scripture, Jesus explained his parable. The seed in verse 19 represents the Word of God communicated in various manners. Satan, or the devil, is represented by the birds that came and picked up the seed. The application is that the message of Jesus is preached to persons hardened in sin. It makes no impression in their lives. The seed lies on the "hard path" and is easily taken away.

The second soil that received the seed is described in verse 20 as being similar to those who are excited and pleased by the gospel message, yet they are not true Christians. The words do not take root. Their hearts and lives are not changed because they did not have a genuine experience with Jesus. Their feelings were merely excited, and coming away from the Christian message, all they had were feelings, insufficient to sustain when persecution and trials come.

The third seed fell into thorny soil which corresponds to people who let "the cares of the world and the delight of riches" (v. 22) choke out the Word sown in their hearts. Those people failed to listen because they have a vested interest in riches and possessions. Earthly gain stands in the way of heavenly reward for those in this category. The previous three responses provide a sober reminder that even those who respond with the most enthusiastic outward response may not be true followers of Christ. Time and perseverance as well as difficult experiences are the test that prove whether one has made a genuine profession of faith. The seed sown in the good soil represents what happens to those who hear the Word of the gospel, receive it, and let it grow.

Jesus was telling the disciples that the sowing of the Word was their responsibility. The response would be determined by the receptiveness of the soil or lives into which the Word fell. Jesus did promise with this parable that an abundant harvest would result from those who continually sow.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book True riches, responsibility



By Clayton Littlejohn
1 Timothy 6

Paul's teaching about true riches and Christian responsibility instructs believers to pursue a godly life and not place undue value on the world's riches.

Warning about false teachers (vv. 2-6). Paul's warning about false teachers is a recurring theme in this book (1:3-4, 6-7, 20; 4:1-5; 6:2-5), which implies it was a serious problem. Now, 2,000 years later, the problem of false teachers is even more widespread. We need to be constantly looking for wolves that dress as sheep so they can slip into the flock and destroy from within.

True and false riches contrasted (vv. 6-10). The false teachers said riches were a reflection of godliness. Paul said godliness is a reflection of true riches. The world defines riches in material terms, but God defines riches in spiritual terms. One of the treasures a Christian can possess is contentment with the basic necessities of life, "food and raiment" (v. 8). Those who seek the riches of the world will never be content. They will always want more (Eccl. 2:10-11; 5:10). Paul reminded us that we didn't bring any material wealth into the world, and we won't carry any out of this world (v. 7). There is no sin in being wealthy if it is gained honestly, distributed properly, and esteemed lowly. Wealthy people need to recognize that God is the source of wealth (Deut. 8:18), and that Satan will use many temptations to "snare" or trap them (v. 9). Some will even allow their desire for wealth to "drown" them in that sea of materialism (v. 9).

Paul told us in verse 10 that "the love of money is the root of all evil," not the money itself. It is amoral (neither good or bad), but the love of money is evil because we are to "love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind" (Matt. 22:37). This love of money has led many astray or they have abandoned the faith for money.

Fight the good fight of faith (vv. 11-16). Paul emphasized that our priorities are to be on eternal values rather than material possessions. He identified Timothy as a "man of God," which is a term used for several Old Testament saints. Paul told Timothy that a man of God will flee materialism and "follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness." Why? Because these are eternal riches that bring people to Jesus, that become eternal treasures. The Christian who does this will have people throughout eternity thanking him for leading them to Jesus. This is not simple. As Christians, we have to spiritually fight the temptation of materialism in order to live a godly life (v. 12). We can do this only when our love for God is stronger than our love for money.

To illustrate how powerful the pressure for materialism is, just read the Sermon on the Mount and see how much Scripture Jesus gave to overcome materialism by first seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33). Jesus dealt with materialism in 16 of the 38 parables he taught. Jesus spent much time teaching on materialism because he knew how much of a temptation it would be in our lives.

Advice for the wealthy (vv. 7-19). This text proves there is nothing wrong with saints being wealthy if they don't become "high minded" (conceited) or place their trust in wealth rather than God, who is the source of wealth (v. 17). Paul didn't say abandon one's wealth; instead he said use it for good (v. 18). Share it generously with those in need. Invest in the spreading of the gospel with your wealth and you will reap eternal dividends (v. 19).

Final appeal for faithfulness (vv. 20-21). Paul's final appeal to Timothy and all saints was to remain faithful to that which we are entrusted: the gospel and the Word of God; and to "avoid vain babbling" (empty deception) and "science" (the theory that knowledge produces salvation). The false teachers had led some to "err concerning the faith," or abandon it for materialism. As Christians, we are to lay up eternal riches and always be a good Samaritan.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwyn.

Life and Work Undivided loyalty



By Linda Donnell
Matthew 6

Is a physician's glove that is 95% sterile considered to be sterile? Is a husband who is 85% faithful to his wife a faithful husband? No! Likewise, there is no such thing as part-time loyalty to Christ. It is all or nothing.

Two treasures (vv. 19-21). Jesus had just cautioned his hearers against coveting the praises of men (vv. 1-18). Now, he proceeded to warn them against coveting the wealth of the world. Certainly in our materialistic society, this is a very relevant warning for Christians of today.

Far too many in the American culture are preoccupied with obtaining the "good things in life." The effort to get something for nothing is a popular pastime. (Note the growth of the number of lotteries and casinos.) The media, in thousands of subtle — and some not-so-subtle — messages tell us that possession of material things will make us happy, and will answer our needs.

The search for treasure is often an all-consuming interest of life. Herein lies the danger. It is not that Jesus was preaching against wealth. Nowhere does the Bible condemn the possession of worldly goods. In fact, he provides us with "all things for our enjoyment" (1 Tim. 6:17). Jesus' principle point is this: there is nothing wrong with possessing things, but it is wrong for things to possess us. That is what happens most often in the search for treasures on earth. We should remember that our excessive devotion to things of this world is often blind. The devil does not want you to realize the moment that you cross over from mere enjoyment to obsession. Are there things in your life that you cannot live without? What occupies the majority of your time? This is where your treasure is.

Anyone whose treasure is in "things" is doomed to disappointment, for in worldly treasure, there is no permanence, no security. Burns wrote:

"But pleasures are like poppies spread:
You seize the flower, its bloom is shed;
Or like the snow falls in the river,
A moment white — then melts forever."

Instead of placing stock in earthly things, Jesus taught his disciples to build their lives around God's work and will (v. 20). At the funeral of David Livingstone, a missionary whose lifetime had been given in sacrificial service, a boyhood friend who had wasted his life was heard to remark: "I put the emphasis on the wrong world." Are you guilty of the same mistake? It is not too late to change.

Two visions (vv. 22-23). The Bible often uses the eye to represent the attitudes of the mind. Thus these verses might be interpreted as Jesus calling the disciples to a singleness of mind or purpose. If one's primary focus is on God, his character and conduct will radiate Christ — his whole body will be filled with light" (v. 22). On the other hand, the person who attempts to divide his focus on both God and world or whose sole aim is to obtain material gain has no clear vision or direction. Without a clear orientation, one's behavior cannot be in line with Christ — his "body is filled with darkness" (v. 23).

Two masters (v. 24). Jesus is quite clear in this verse: "No man can serve two masters." The impossibility exists because there will come a time when the two contradict each other. We simply cannot have two directors. Thus we have to make a choice. We have to choose between love of God and love of money, between service to God and service to things, between worship of God and worship of self. We cannot have it both ways, even though we often try. In the words of Patrick Morley, we "pursue the God we want instead of the God who is." In many instances, we want a God who is more of a gentle grandfather type who will spoil us and let us have our way.

Can you give Christ your *undivided* loyalty and receive the resultant gain? The action plan is difficult. It is simple in theory, but difficult to achieve. You must surrender all things to the Lord. In making your choice, remember that if you choose the way of the world, you ultimately receive "ruin and destruction" (1 Tim. 6:9).

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.

capsules

BULGARIANS PROTEST "UNFAVORABLE" TREATMENT: SOFIA, Bulgaria (ABP) — Several Protestant churches in Bulgaria have complained of "unfavorable" treatment from government officials and the media. The Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance issued a "cry for help" in form of an official declaration to Bulgaria's president and to the World Council of Churches, according to Ecumenical News International. Among concerns noted by the group is a claim that the Bulgarian Orthodox Church has asked the government to ban all Protestant churches. About 87% of Bulgarians are members of the Orthodox Church. The statement claims that some legitimate churches have been labeled as sects. "[We] appeal to you to express [our] concern about ... the campaign conducted already for several years against sects," states the declaration. "Because of the lack of clarity regarding the definition of which groups are sects and which are not, the mass media are treating intentionally as sects the recognized evangelical denominations, some of which have been in Bulgaria for more than 100 years."

SADDLEBACK BAPTISMS SURPASS 1,300 IN '95: LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP) — A baptism record was set in 1995 by Saddleback Valley Community Church, Lake Forest, Calif., which baptized 1,365 new converts. Eighty people, including a 91-year-old woman, were baptized on the last day of the year. According to Home Mission Board statistics, the previous record was 1,313 baptisms by First Church, Dallas, but 1,072 of those baptisms were included from missions of the church. Saddleback, which has started 27 missions, does not include its mission baptisms in its count. If Saddleback's missions were included, the baptism total would top 2,000 for 1995.

SHORT SETS RETIREMENT AS LOUISIANA EXEC: ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP) — Mark Short, executive director of the Louisiana Convention since 1987, has announced his retirement, effective Dec. 31, 1996. "I have been impressed by the Holy Spirit to announce this decision early in 1996," Short said in his letter of resignation, "in order that our Administrative Subcommittee will have enough time to seek God's appointed leader for this task." Short, 67, came to the helm of the state convention from New Orleans Seminary where he was a professor of church administration. He followed Robert L. Lee who held the post of LBC executive director 33 years.

ARGENTINE CALLS FOR END TO CHURCH SUBSIDIES: BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (ABP) — A Baptist leader in Argentina has called for an end to government subsidies for the Roman Catholic Church. In an article in the *El Puente* newspaper, prominent Baptist leader Arnoldo Canclini said the subsidies are a legacy of the country's colonial past and show preference to one particular church, reported Ecumenical News International. This year, Argentina will pay about \$8.5 million in subsidies to the Catholic Church. While the subsidies have been reduced in recent years, the fact that the Catholic Church "depends on the government, even minimally... implies a contribution from non-Catholic contributors," Canclini said. An estimated 93% of Argentina's 34-million citizens are Catholic.

EXTENDED ILLNESS CLAIMS SOUTHEASTERN'S MAX ROGERS: WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Southeastern Seminary lost a longtime standard-bearer Feb. 12 when Max Rogers, professor of Old Testament at the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary since 1961, died after an extended illness. He was 63. A native of Richmond, Va., Rogers came to the seminary after serving on the faculty at Columbia University, New York City, and Brooklyn Friends School, Brooklyn, N.Y. "In the 42 months that I have known Max Rogers, he became a precious friend and always an ardent supporter of the seminary," said Paige Patterson, noting it was not until he was named president of Southeastern in 1992 that he met Rogers. Students always knew when Rogers was on campus — his black Studebaker notable in the sea of more contemporary autos in the faculty parking area in front of Southeastern's Stealey Hall. "I'll miss that Studebaker," Patterson mused. "I'll deeply miss Max on this campus."

TEXAS BAPTIST MEN TO BUILD SWBTS HOUSING: FORT WORTH (BP) — Texas Baptist Men and Southwestern Seminary soon will benefit from each other's ministries. One of Southwestern's most popular housing alternatives for families will be expanded beginning in March. Texas Baptist Men, an organization of volunteer builders affiliated with the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, will live in travel trailers while they build two new town houses in the J. Howard Williams Student Village at the seminary's Fort Worth campus.

FBC NASHVILLE PASTOR LEAVING: NASHVILLE (ABP) — Dan Francis has resigned as pastor of the historic First Church in Nashville to begin a new "seeker-targeted" church in nearby Brentwood. Francis, 43, has been pastor four years of the downtown church near headquarters of both the Southern Baptist Convention and the SBC's mammoth publishing house, the Baptist Sunday School Board. His resignation is effective March 10, according to a statement. "We support Dan Francis in his acceptance of this new call and appreciate the work he has done through the Lord at our church for the last four years," said Tad Harris, chairman of deacons at First Church.

Brazil's Tower of Prayer project memorializes Mississippi woman

By Anne W. McWilliams

A tower of prayer to be erected at a Baptist camp in the mountains near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is to be a memorial to a Mississippi native, the late Rosalee Mills Appleby, missionary to Brazil from 1924-60.

The cornerstone for the tower was laid during a doctrinal seminar at Camp Mount Moriah in November 1995.

Among items placed in the cornerstone were Portuguese versions of Psalm 119:54 and Isaiah 56:7, and the Broadman book, **David Gomes: When Faith Triumphs** by Anne Washburn McWilliams of Clinton.

The book contains a chapter on the history of Mount Moriah and is dedicated to Rosalee Appleby.

One Brazilian, Maryann Barbosa of Belo Horizonte, pointed out that in Appleby's life, prayer was fundamental, so a "tower of

prayer should fit the whole of her life... As a new generation arises, a memorial would open a way to tell about her works of love."

The camp is sponsored by the Church of Hope in Rio de Janeiro and by the Bible School of the Air, David Gomes, founder and director, P.O. Box 866, Rio de Janeiro Appleby 20.001, Brazil.

The shape of the camp's tract of land resembles someone kneeling with hands lifted in prayer. The prayer tower is to be built at the summit of the mountain. From the tower, one can view the sea and the highway that leads from Rio de Janeiro to Sao Paulo.



In addition to the tower of prayer, four other memorials are projected for the camp by the year 2000: a Pilgrim's Chapel and three dorms — Faith, Hope, and Love — in different colors.

From its beginnings in 1974, Mount Moriah has been an encampment of faith, aided by gifts from individuals and churches. Volunteers from Florida and Texas built the chapel.

"The cost of the Tower of Prayer will not be much," said Gomes, "perhaps \$25,000. We think with a gift of \$1,000 each by 25 people, we can see the work done."

For more information on the Tower of Prayer project, contact Anne W. McWilliams, U.S. project coordinator, 1006 Dogwood Drive, Clinton, MS 39056.

McWilliams is the retired former associate editor of The Baptist Record.

Rare northern lights in Mississippi kindled his Alaskan commitment

GIRDWOOD, Alaska (BP) — From his **home state of Mississippi**, Mac Burrell caught a glimpse of Alaska that changed his life.

While jogging seven years ago in Meridian, Burrell saw the sky turn blood red and wondered if he was about to hear Gabriel's trumpet. "I sat there for 10 minutes



Burrell

waiting for Jesus to split the skies," he said. "Moses had the burning bush, and I got the aurora borealis."

Burrell had mailed his resume to First Church of Soldotna, Alaska, months earlier. He said he considered the northern lights to be God's personal message after the weather forecaster said the lights hadn't extended that far south in 30 years.

Months later, when he preached at the Alaskan church in view of a call, the congregation wouldn't vote for a week. Nevertheless, he was so confident he would live in Alaska he left most of his clothes in storage there.

Amid rugged terrain and climate, Alaskans live up to their reputation for being self-reliant, said Burrell, 31. That influences their spiritual outlook. "We have a saying in Alaska that everybody's either running from the law or God or both," he said. "Most of them know that they're lost and a lot of them are proud of it."

Such spiritual bluntness is

refreshing, he said. "You've just got to figure out that day if they're interested in being saved or not."

He left Alaska for 18 months to attend New Orleans Seminary. He returned last year to start Grace Chapel in Girdwood, and he receives financial support from the state convention and the Home Mission Board.

In a state where people write "deceased" on their mail from the government, door-to-door visitation is rarely successful, he said. Ministry-based relationships, however, help break down walls residents have built toward Christianity. "I've cut wood for ladies in 40 below zero," he said. "Anything to get out with lost people."

(Based on a testimony from the Rocky Mountain Resort/Ministries conference in Grand Mesa, Colo.)

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NRS HÖLXOAJ S OL VFN UWFQS ROL ZULNSG:
WCN SQSGT FVS NRUN OL ASGDSXN LRUJJ WS
UL ROL ZULNSG

JCMS LOP: DFGNT

This week's clue: J equals L.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Daniel Eleven: Twenty.

Baptist Record

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